# SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — March 5, 1973

No 188

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION


# They have deliberately pursued a policy of sabotage against peace

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on February 25 issued a statement on the very serious, systematic and large-scale violation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam by the United States and the Saigon administration.

The statement reads in full as follows:

*THANKS to the goodwill and the serious attitude of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to the efforts of other parties concerned, the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam has been signed. Nearly one full month has passed since and the people of South Viet Nam should have been able to enjoy a life in peace, independence anp democracy and should have initially achieved reconciliation and national concord according to the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.*

*However, up to now the situation in South Viet Nam remains tense. Gunfire continues to resound, and blood continues to shed because the US side and the Saigon administration are pushing the war to a large scale and a high level. They have deliberately pursued a policy of sabotage against peace, not only refusing to cease fire but also continuing to escalate in the violation of the provisions of the Agreement in a serious, systematic, continual and widespread manner.*

*Right after the Agreement took effect, the Saigon administration mobilized a large portion of its armed forces to launch many offensive and nibbling operations and "pacification" raids.*

*According to still incomplete figures, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 24, 1973, the Saigon troops in nearly 12,000 cases attacked and nibbled at the areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Apart from large scale nibbling attacks of battalion size they have opened 42 operations of regiment or equivalent size and eight other operations of division or equivalent size, using a large force of armour, artillery and air force.*

*On no lesser scale than at the time of fierce war, they are daily sending from 200 to 250 sorties of combat planes in co-ordination with artillery to make wanton bombardments on the villages, striking even at the places which the PRG had notified the other side as places for the reception of the military delegations or places for the return of detained persons or as points of entry for the replacement of armaments. What is particularly serious is that they have carried out extermination raids against a number of localities such as Thach Bi and Da Heo (Sa Huynh), Zit village (Southwest of Pleiku). Treacherous by nature, before the ink had dried on their signatures to the Joint Appeal for Ceasefire of the Central Four-Party Joint Military Commission, on the afternoon of February 19, 1973, only one hour after they were notified, the Saigon administration sent aircraft to bomb and strafe Duc Co area, damaging the housing quarters of the International Commission for Control and Supervision which was under construction. After their failure in the attack on the liberated area south of Cua Viet, they sent five infantry regiments supported by armour, artillery, aircraft and war vessels, to launch repeated nibbling attacks on the liberated zone in Sa Huynh (Quang Ngai), and carried out massive bombardments on this area, firing more than 160,000 rounds. In all the other tactical areas, Saigon troops have penetrated deep into the areas under the control of the PRG and illegally set up many more posts and positions.*

*ALONG with the above-mentioned nibbling operations, the Saigon administration have not yet implemented any provisions concerning the democratic liberties of the people. On the contrary, they have sent police and civil guards to open more than 8,000 raids in continuation of their "national policy of pacification," stepping up terror and coercion against the people, preventing those persons who are penned up in strategic hamlets and other concentration camps from moving freely or returning to their native villages to earn their living, in blatant violation of Article 11 of the Agreement which provides that "immediately after the ceasefire, the two South Vietnamese parties will ensure the democratic liberties of the people."*

*THE Saigon administration have also violated the provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol regarding the return of Vietnamese civilian personnel. So far they have not returned any Vietnamese civilian personnel.*

*In the camps where Vietnamese civilian and military personnel are detained, they have not disseminated the Agreement and deliberately carry out a black-out of news. Not only have they intensively carried out the secret murder and elimination of the patriotic and peace-loving persons but also shifted the responsibility to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in order to hide their scheme of not returning all the civilian personnel still detained by them.*

*In order to have a free hand in violating the ceasefire on the battlefield, the Saigon administration has used very brazen methods to create difficulties to and prevent the deployment of the Joint Military Commissions, therefore also putting obstacles to the International Commissions of Control and Supervision, preventing the JMC and ICCS from carrying out effective activities.*

*While deliberately violating the Agreement in a very brazen manner, the Saigon administration put the blame on the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for the present serious situation. But their trick cannot deceive anybody. Broad sections of public opinion in South Viet Nam and the world have pointed out that the Saigon administration have completely no good will and have violated the spirit and letter of the Agreement. Public opinion also holds that so long as the Saigon administration have not fully observed the provisions on democratic liberties, there can be no reconciliation and national concord, and no "normalization of the political life" in South Viet Nam.*

*With regard to the other provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol which the United States is dutybound to directly implement in South Viet Nam, the United States has not yet acted as required by its responsibility. It has deliberately adopted an attitude of procrastination and evasion. For instance, it has refused to give a complete and concrete plan of its troops withdrawal, it has refused the control over the withdrawal of troops of the United States and the other countries. Its statement that there remains no more US military bases in South Viet Nam to avoid having to dismantle them, is a violation of Article 6c of the Agreement. As a matter of fact, the United States has not yet renounced its policy of "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam.*

*Obviously, the above-mentioned lack of good will and the very serious acts of violation of the Agreement on the part of the United States and the Saigon administration lie in a premeditated plan and are deliberated acts, not isolated and accidental acts of violation of the ceasefire. The United States and the Saigon administration have not yet renounced their scheme of continuing to carry out neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and perpetuating the division of Viet Nam. This explains why right after signing the Agreement, they have sought every means to sabotage it and undermine peace. All these acts have created a very serious situation in South Viet Nam. This situation completely runs counter to the ardent aspiration of the South Vietnamese people, namely peace, independence, democratic liberties, reconciliation and national concord and runs counter to the desire of the people throughout the world including the American people to see an early end to the war and early restoration of lasting peace in South Viet Nam.*

*IN the past period, for its part, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, like the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, has seriously and scrupulously implemented all provisions of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam. The People's Liberation Armed Forces have strictly abidden by the ceasefire order. The policy of reconciliation and national concord has brought about broad solidarity and the democratic freedoms of the people have been observed in the liberated areas. The PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam has constantly treated the captured and detained persons with humanity, and has implemented in a satisfactory manner the provisions concerning the return of military as well as civilian personnel of the United States and the Saigon administration. At present the RSVN PRG is conducting consultations with the Saigon administration in order to find an early correct solution to the political questions in South Viet Nam.*

*Since the return of peace, under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people, greatly inspired and confident, have intensified their solidarity and struggle to prevent all nibbling attacks by the Saigon administration, consolidate the liberated zone, maintain firmly the revolutionary gains and recorded many important successes.*

*In the face of the nibbling operations and provocative acts by the Saigon army, the representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government have always shown goodwill and have taken the initiative to propose that the Four-Party Joint Military Commission issue an appeal calling on the armed forces of all sides to end all acts of violating the ceasefire order and respect the provisions of the Agreement. The above-said correct attitude of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has won the sympathy and support of broad public opinion in the world.*

*BUT, whether the Agreement is respected and fully implemented depends not only on the serious attitude of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam but also on the US side and the Saigon administration.*

(Continued on page 3)

# 23,560 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN UNDER ONE MONTH

ACCORDING to incomplete figures, from January 28 to February 24, 1973, the Saigon administration and army committed **23,560** violations of the provisions on the cease-fire (Article 2 and 3) and on democratic liberties (Article 11) of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam. Following are the details:

— **11,800** encroachments by ground troops against areas under the control of the RSVN PRG. These include 8 operations of Brigade and Division size at Cua Viet, Sa Huynh (Central Trung Bo), Southern Kontum, Buon Ho, Southern Pleiku (Central Highlands), Tay Ninh (Eastern Nam Bo) South and North of Highway 4, Long My (Mekong Delta), 42 operations of regiment and equivalent size, and numerous battalion-sized operations with air, armour and artillery support.

— **2,270** artillery bombardments (including naval bombardments) against liberated areas.

— **1,070** aerial bombings with demolition and napalm bombs and toxic chemicals.

— **8,420** police operations and round-ups during which arrests were made against patriotic and peace-loving people and advocates of national concord and retaliation was taken against resistance cadres.

## Areas, dates of violations and units involved

**Region I: Quang Tri—Thua Thien**

*— South of Cua Viet*

Jan. 28—Jan. 31, the 147th and 258th marine brigades and artillery units.

*— South-west of Quang Tri town*

Feb. 2 — Feb. 24, paratroop brigade and artillery units.

*— South of Hue*

Jan. 28 — Feb. 5, the 54th regiment and various "civil guard" battalions and artillery units.

*— Ta Luong area (South-west of Hue)*

From 6.00 a.m. Feb. 3 to Feb. 8, the 52nd regiment, many "civil guard" battalions, the Saigon air force and artillery.

All told, in Region I, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 24, the Saigon army has been responsible for 1,925 violations of the cease-fire, including 129 ground attacks with armour, artillery and air support, 68 aerial bombardments and toxic chemicals sprays.

**Region II: Da Nang**

*— Duy Xuyen and Que Son areas (Quang Nam province)*

From 10.000 a.m. Jan. 28 to Feb. 13, the 2nd and 57th regiments of the 5th division, the 79th and 112th ranger battalions, artillery units and the air force.

*— Binh Son and Son Tinh areas (Northern Quang Ngai)*

Since Jan. 28, the 56th regiment and artillery units with toxic shells during "burn all, destroy all" sweeps. Many hamlets in Northern Son Tinh district were razed to the ground.

*— Sa Huynh area (Southern Quang Ngai)*

Since 16.00 hrs Feb. 1st, the 5th and 4th regiments of the 2nd division, the 41 st regiment of the 22nd division, the 4th armour column, four artillery battalions, the 1st and 6th ranger groups with air and naval support.

**Region III: Pleiku**

Southern Kontum: From 10.00 hrs Feb.6 to Feb.7, infantry with tank support and bombing by A.D6 and A.37 planes to clear the ground.

*Duc Co area and Southern part of Pleiku town*

From 10.30 hrs on January 28 to January 29, the 2nd ranger battalion, various civil guard units, armour groups and artilery units.

*Buon Ho area*

— From 14.00 hrs on Feb. 6 to Feb. 21 by various civil guard and artillery units and aircraft. On Feb. 21 alone, nine infantry battalions and two armour battalions made incursions into the Plei Ta-Uan cross-roads on Highway 14. All told, in the Central Viet Nam Highlands, in the period Jan. 28—Feb. 21, the Saigon army committed 416 breaches of the cease-fire agreement including 125 infantry attacks against the liberated zone under cover of tanks, artillery and aircraft.

**Region IV: Phan Thiet**

In the period Jan. 28—Feb. 15, there were 144 violations of the cease-fire by the Saigon army including extermination raids against 7 hamlets and inroads into the areas assigned for the reception of the military delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the Four-Party Joint Military Commission in Sector H.

**Region V: Bien Hoa**

— Tay Ninh area. From 8.00 a.m. Jan. 28 to Feb. 13, the 46th, 25th regiments, the 49th multi-battalion unit, the 10th armour column, many civil guard battalions and tactical aircraft.

*— In Binh Duong and Long Khanh provinces*

Jan. 29 — Jan. 31, the 8th and 43rd regiments, many civil guard battalions and armour columns with air and artillery support.

**Region VI: My Tho**

— Cai Lay and Cai Nua areas

Jan. 29, the 10th regiment of the 7th division and the 12th regiment of the 9th division and several artillery units.

*— Hong Ngu area*

Jan. 30—Feb. 13 the 11th regiment of the 7th division, the 15th regiment of the 9th Division, many civil guard and artillery battalions. On Feb. 13 alone, the artillery battalions. On Feb. 13 alone, the artillery fired more than 33,000 rounds.

**Region VII: Can Tho**

— Feb. 1st—Feb. 14, the 31st and 33rd regiments of the 21st Division, two armour regiments, many civil guard battalion, a ranger groop and various artillery units made forays into the liberated zone in Northern Vi Thanh, Long My, Tam Giang and Bay Nui.

*The seat of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Loc Ninh district*

## Typical violations of provisions on democratic liberties

**Region I:**

From Jan. 28 to Feb. 21, Saigon troops and armed police launched 1,118 police operations and "sweeps" in Hue city, various townships and villages under the control of the Saigon administration. The raiders made thousands of arrests, put into concentration camps many families having relations with the National Front for Liberation and the PRG, bulldozed many dwelling houses, shot dead more than 100 people at a time in Phu Ninh hamlet, Phong Dien district (Thua Thien province), forced the people to join Nguyen Van Thieu's "Democratic Party" and committed rapes.

**Region VI and VII (Mekong delta)**

From Jan. 28—Feb. 21, 7,021 police operations were launched, during which thousands of people were apprehended. Many were brutally tortured, some were beheaded and their heads were displayed in public places for intimidation purposes. Others had their arms and legs chopped off. The raiders ransacked many temples and pagodas such as the Trung Ly temple of the Cao Dai Buddhist Sect in My Tho province, killed or wounded 44 Buddhist monks and nuns, prevented the people from moving on rivers or harvesting their crops, herding those having relatives or sympathies with the National Front for Liberation into camps set up around military posts.

**Region II: Da Nang**

Saigon tanks opened up at mass demonstrations welcoming peace. War vessels of the Saigon army opened fire and sank fishing boats flying the flag of the PRG. Hundreds of people were arrested including children of 3 or 4.

The Saigon administration issued 10 instructions to the police operating in the cities and townships under its control on repressing and terrorizing the patriotic and peace-loving people and advocates of national concord, restricting the people's movement, muzzling the press, "dispersing political rallies," arresting and prosecuting "anyone who seeks to incite the people to rebellion."

# General TRAN VAN TRA denounces US.Saigon violations of Paris Agreement

SINCE the signing of the Paris Agreement, the US and the Saigon administration have committed 23,560 acts of violation, said Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra, head of the military delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the Central Four-Party Joint Military Commission at a meeting of the head delegates on February 26, 1973.

Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra said that of this number 11,800 are nibbling operations against the area under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The US-Saigon side has also created obstacles to the return of the detained military and civilian personnel, hindered the urgent as well as normal activities of the Joint Military Commission and of the International Commission. The US still refuses to discuss the procedures of the troops withdrawal in an attempt to evade supervision and refuses to dismantle its military bases. Instead, it is scheming to illegally leave in South Viet Nam thousands of disguised military personnel in civilian clothes. Meanwhile, the propaganda organs of the Saigon administration have been day and night spreading allegations aimed at inciting hatred and national division and sabotaging reconciliation and national concord.

At this meeting, Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra refuted the slander of the Saigon administration and the US who alleged that the PRG is building a "SAM 2" site in Khe Sanh. He declared: "In the area under the control of the PRG, since the ceasefire agreement took effect, the people's armed forces, including the infantry and the other armed services, have been staying in their places, and have taken no acts of redeployment or movement of troops comparable to the operations which the Saigon administration has undertaken."

"Such slanderous allegations are aimed at covering the serious acts of violation by the US and the Saigon administration which have been known to the people throughout the country and the world", he stressed.

Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra expressed his indignation at the acts of hooliganism of the bellicose elements, henchmen of the imperialists, against the DRVN military delegation in Tam Ky, Da Nang and Hue, and refuted the lies of the Saigon administration concerning the cause of those incidents. Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra made the following proposals to the US and the Saigon administration:

1/ All parties must ensure that all the armed forces under their command strictly abide by the provisions on the ceasefire and strictly carry out the appeal for ceasefire issued by the Central Four-Party Joint military Commission.

2/ To ensure the return of all the military and civilian personnel being detained by each side.

3/ To observe the privileges and immunities accorded to the military delegations of the PRG and the DRVN, ensure the completion of the deployment and effective activities of the military commissions.

4/ The Saigon administration must stop the distorting propaganda aimed at inciting enmity and national division, observe reconciliation and ensure the democratic liberties of the people.

To make these proposals effective Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra urged that the US and the Saigon administration respect their signatures, not to trample upon the aspiration of the Vietnamese people, the American people and the world's peoples, seriously implement the Agreement and the Protocols and put a definitive stop to all acts of violation.

# A gala of peace, national reconciliation and concord in Paris

A "Gala soirée for Peace" was held on the evening of Feb. 24, at the *Philharmonique* Theatre in Paris, by various Vietnamese Movements and personalities in France, with the attendance of overseas Vietnamese of all religious and political tendencies.

On behalf of 15 Vietnamese bodies and individuals in France, Reverend Thich Thien Chau read out a joint declaration stressing the historic importance of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam and demanding that the four signatories to the Agreement strictly implement its military provisions especially those on the cease-fire. "The two South Vietnamese governments," the declaration went on to say, "should rapidly enter into consultations with a view to implementing as soon as possible the provisions of the Agreement connected with the political future of South Viet Nam, particularly with the application of democratic freedoms."

The signatories to the joint Declaration appealed to "the two governments and all religious and political organizations and personalities in South Viet Nam to exert themselves in applying a policy of national reconciliation and concord."

It affirmed that the common aspirations of the above-mentioned bodies and individuals were to "participate in the consolidating of peace, achieving of national reconciliation and concord and building of the country."

The bodies and individuals signatories to the joint Declaration included:

— Reverend Thich Thien Chau, President of the Association of Overseas Vietnamese Buddhists (French branch),

— Mr Tran Van Huu, ex-Premier,

— Dr Pham Van Huyen, President of the South Viet Nam Peace and Neutrality Front—1965 Saigon Peace Movement,

— Mr Huynh Trung Dong, President of the Union of Overseas Vietnamese in France,

— Mr Nguyen Van Cong, President of the Catholic and National Movement,

— Mr Cao Minh Chiem, journalist of the Movement for National Self-determination, ex-Secretary general of the 1965 Saigon Peace Movement,

— Mr Nguyen Van Con, representative and founding member of the South Viet Nam Committee for Peace and Reform,

— Mr Vu Thien Han, representative of the "Turn to Vietnamese Land" Movement,

— Major Tran Dinh Lan, President of the Viet Nam Free Forces,

— Mr Nguyen Thai Son, representative of the Viet Nam United Socialist Party, overseas delegation,

— Group captain Do Khac Mai, former commander staff of the Air Force, Republic of Viet Nam,

— Major Nguyen Van Chau, former Director general of the Psychological Warfare Office and former military attaché of the Republic of Viet Nam in Washington,

— Mr Pham The Truc, ex-representative of Binh Thuan province,

— Mr Huynh Ba Phuc, flight lieutenant, Air Force, Republic of Viet Nam,

— Mr Co Van Hai, former deputy chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Viet Nam, and secretary general of the Viet Nam Socialist Party.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the delegation of the RSVN PRG to the International Conference on Viet Nam, Ngo Dien, member of the DRVN Government delegation to the same Conference, and representatives of the DRVN Delegation General and the RSVN PRG in France were among the attendants.

Were also present, as representatives of the Saigon side, Tran Thanh Quan and Nguyen Cao Quyen, of the Consulate General of the Saigon administration in Paris.

# They have deliberately pursued...

(Continued from page 1)

*TO maintain and consolidate peace, the US and the Saigon administration must end immediately all acts of violation and respect and seriously implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. At present, they must carry out seriously the Joint Appeal for ceasefire issued on Feb. 16, 1973 by the Central Four-Party Joint Military Commission, end at once their nibbling attacks and bombardments against the areas under the PRG control and let the commanders of their armed forces on the battlefield to meet commanders of the People's Liberation Armed Forces of the same ranks in order to reach agreement on measures to avoid clashes as provided for by Article 4 of the Protocol on the Ceasefire in South Viet Nam.*

*The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam affirms its consistent stand of seriously and scrupulously implementing all the provisions of the Agreement and also of resolutely not tolerating any acts of violation of the Agreement by the Saigon administration and the US side. The US and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their detiberate acts of violation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.*

*BELOVED fellow-countrymen and combatants in the South,*

*The Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam has been signed. We have recorded a tremendous victory after eighteen years of persistent and courageous fight. Peace has been restored but the bellicose forces within and without the country are trying to sabotage it.*

*Let all fellow-countrymen unite millions as one, uphold vigilance and persistently struggle for the full implementation of the provisions of the Agreement. Let all of us resolutely preserve peace, independence and real sovereignty, achieve democracy and national concord and advance to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland. The just cause of our people will win! No reactionary force can change the situation and prevent the powerful advance of our nation.*

*OFFICERS, soldiers and functionaries in the Saigon administration,*

*Peace is the earnest aspiration of all of you. To preserve peace is to love the country and people, and contribute to the building of a happy and plenty life for your families and fellow-countrymen.*

*Let all of you put an end to all clashes and closely coordinate with the liberation combatants and the people in strictly observing the ceasefire and other provisions of the Agreement.*

*The Provisional Revolutionary Government, with its goodwill and sincerity, is ready to unite with you to achieve national concord and preserve peace.*

*THE governments of the socialist countries, the non-aligned countries and the peace- and justice-loving people, the various international organizations, the people of the United States and people of the world,*

*So far, you have wholeheartedly supported the Vietnamese people's anti-US struggle, for national salvation and made a precious contribution to the restoration of peace in Viet Nam. Let all of you persistently and resolutely demand that the United States and the Saigon administration respect and strictly implement the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam and its Protocols. Let all of you increase your support to the struggle of the South Vietnamese people for building a peaceful, independent, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam and advancing to the peaceful reunification of the country, and for contributing to the safeguarding of peace in Indochina Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.*

# ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM

*Following is the full text of the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam officially signed by the 12 Foreign Ministers for the 12 Governments participating in the Conference :*

The Government of Canada,

The Government of the People's Republic of China,

The Government of the United States of America,

The Government of the French Republic,

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam,

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic,

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia,

The Government of the Polish People's Republic,

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,

The Government of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

The Government of the Republic of Viet Nam, and

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

In the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations,

With a view to acknowledging the signed agreements, guaranteeing the ending of the war, the maintenance of peace in Viet Nam, the respect of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. and contributing to and guaranteeing peace in Indochina,

Have agreed on the following provisions, and undertake to respect and implement them :

### Article 1

The parties to this act solemnly acknowledge, express their approval of, and support the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam signed in Paris on January 27, 1973, and the four Protocols to the agreement signed on the same date (hereinafter referred to respectively as the Agreement and the Protocols).

### Article 2

The Agreement responds to the aspirations and fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, i.e., the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, to the right of the South Vietnamese people to self-determination, and to the earnest desire for peace shared by all countries in the world. The Agreement constitutes a major contribution to peace, self-determination, national independence, and the improvement of relations among countries. The Agreement and the Protocols should be strictly respected and scrupulously implemented.

### Article 3

The parties to this act solemnly acknowledge the commitments by the parties to the Agreement and the Protocols to strictly respect and scrupulously implement the Agreement and the Protocols.

### Article 4

The parties to this act solemnly recognize and strictly respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, i.e., the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, as well as the right of the South Vietnamese people to self-determination. The parties to this act shall strictly respect the Agreement and the Protocols by refraining from any action at variance with their provisions.

### Article 5

For the sake of a durable peace in Viet Nam, the parties to this act call on all countries to strictly respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, i.e., the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and the right of the South Vietnamese people to self-determination and to strictly respect the Agreement and the Protocols by refraining from any action at variance with their provisions.

### Article 6

a) The four parties to the Agreement or the two South Vietnamese parties may, eitheir individually or through joint action, inform the other parties to this act about the implementation of the Agreement and the Protocols. Since the reports and views submitted by the International Commission of Control and Supervision concerning the control and supervision of the implementation of those provisions of the Agreement and the Protocols which are within the tasks of the commission will be sent to either the four parties signatory to the Agreement or to the two South Vietnamese parties, those parties shall be responsible, either individually or through joint action, for forwarding them promptly to the other parties to this act.

b) The four parties to the Agreement or the two South Vietnamese parties shall also, either individually or through joint action, forward this information and these reports and views to the other participant in the International Conference on Viet Nam for his information.

### Article 7

a) In the event of a violation of the Agreement or the Protocols which threatens the peace, the independence, sovereignty, unity or territorial integrity of Viet Nam, or the right of the South Vietnamese people to self-determination, the parties signatory to the Agreement and the Protocols shall, either individually or jointly, consult with the other parties to this act with a view to determining necessary remedial measures.

b) The International Conference on Viet Nam shall be reconvened upon a joint request by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on behalf of the parties signatory to the Agreement or upon a request by six or more of the parties to this Act.

### Article 8

With a view to contributing to and guaranteeing peace in Indochina, the parties to this act acknowledge the commitment of the parties to the Agreement to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and neutrality of Cambodia and Laos as stipulated in the Agreement, agree also to respect them and to refrain from any action at variance with them, and call on other countries to do the same.

### Article 9

This act shall enter into force upon signature by plenipotentiary representatives of all twelve parties and shall be strictly implemented by all the parties. Signature of this act does not constitute recognition of any party in any case in which it has not previously been accorded.

Done in twelve copies in Paris this second day of March, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Three, in English, Vietnamese, Chinese, French, and Russian. All texts are equally authentic.

*For the Government of Canada*
*The Secretary of State for External Affairs*
MITCHELL SHARP

*For the Government of the People's Republic of China*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
CHI PENG-FEI

*For the Government of the United States of America*
*The Secretary of State*
WILLIAM P. ROGERS

*For the Government of the French Republic*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
MAURICE SCHUMANN

*For the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
NGUYEN THI BINH

*For the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
JANOS PETER

*For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
ADAM MALIK

*For the Government of the Polish People's Republic*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
STEPAN OLSZOWSKI

*For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
NGUYEN DUY TRINH

*For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
*The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*
ALEC DOUGLAS HOME

*For the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
TRAN VAN LAM

*For the Government of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics*
*The Minister for Foreign Affairs*
A.A. GROMYKO

# LOC NINH

*The People's Revolutionary Committee of Loc Ninh district discussing issues relating to production, security and improvement of living conditions*

LOC NINH is a district town surrounded on all sides by rubber plantations.

From the airport to the town we went through triumph arches bedecked with RSVN flags. Red and blue banners with a golden star were also fluttering on over all of the town's offices and buildings.

Here was the market place overcrowded with people, there the premises of the Municipal People's Revolutionary Committee, the Youth Club, and a little farther the seat of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Loc Ninh district.

Seing us with helmets on and in military uniforms, people flocked around and happily talked to us. Among them were Chinese nationals and children. Grown-ups inquired about production and the fighting in other areas. Our conversations—most cordial ones—lasted so long that someone among the marked goers commented aloud, "If you stop to greet talk at length with everyone you meet, when will you finish visiting the town?"

All spoke out their joy to see their district liberated, power wrested back by the people, and all fellow-countrymen united as members of a large family to defend and rebuild their homeland. They told us that under the revolutionary power they could enjoy democratic freedoms—freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, freedom of enterprise. A woman said, "Even if we had to content ourselves with vegetable soup for food, we should feel happy to live in liberty and friendship like this."

We were received by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the district at the building of the People's Revolutionary Committee. They told us of the big efforts made by the local administration to help the population intensify the tapping of rubber trees, the main resource of Loc Ninh. The revolutionary authorities also provided peasants with seeds and farm implements to push ahead agricultural production. In the teeth of enormous difficulties, they had set up a medical and educational network in the district.

I shall not forget what the Chaiman of Loc Ninh said when we took leave of him and his deputy: "At present we are still poor. Many houses are in ruins from American bombing and shelling. But we have worked out plans to rebuild this town into a better, finer one, so that it will deserve to be a people's town. Then we'll invite you to come back."

On our way home, we came across groups of merry youths and girls, hoes or spades on their shoulders. They were the builders of the new district town.

**P.V.**

# Official acknowledgement of Viet Nam's victory

MARCH 2, 1973 in Paris was a magnificent, sunny day, and the Centre of International Conferences in Rue Kléber was also magnificently decorated and was alive with reporters. Millions of TV-watchers were eagerly waiting to see the historic moment when an event of international importance would take place—the official signing of the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam.

There was a stirring atmosphere in the great hall. Among the hundreds of persons to attend the ceremony were 4 US Congress leaders just arriving from the United States. They were M. Mansfield, Senate majority leader; H. Scott, leader of the minority group in the Senate; Representative J. McFall, who deputized for the House President; and G. Ford, House minority leader.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, wearing an "*ao dai*" of a very bright colour, sat among the foreign ministers of great powers, behind a placard bearing the inscription "The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam." Her face was beaming with the joy over the very great victories that had been won for the people and combatants of South Viet Nam on the conference table in the past few days.

After Polish Foreign Minister S. Olszowski, who was presiding over that last session of the Conference, had announced the opening by knocking a black hammer on the table, the hall became silent, and everybody held his breath. Only the clicking and whirring of cameras were heard now.

The Polish Foreign Minister read his final address, saying: "The road to peace in Viet Nam has been a long and difficult one, and our work together to conclude the negotiations has been no less difficult."

He was right. At this very conference, the representative of the Saigon administration and a number of persons of bad faith had put up many obstacles in an attempt to prevent the conference from achieving success. Just the other day, on Feb. 28, after the proposal of Mme Nguyen Thi Binh for a ministerial meeting for the RSVN PRG, the DRVN Government, the US Government, and the Saigon administration had been accepted, the representative of the latter made quite a fuss about the choice of a suitable table. He wanted one that would divide the participants into two camps; but, later, when the representative of the United States opted for a round table, he followed suit.

Then, on March 1, when a sub-commission meeting was in full swing to complete the drafting of the act for the initialing, in the afternoon, the Saigon representative, who was upstairs, refused to take part in it despite repeated invitations. Not until US Secretary of State W. Rogers personally phoned him, did he moved from his room. Yet, at the meeting, he raised many absurd points. At the initialing ceremony in the afternoon, he declared that he would sign to the Act although it did not satisfy him. He demanded the Conference to adopt an official statement to be attached to the Act, which would recognize the Saigon administration as "the only legal government in South Viet Nam."

To this, Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, her face sternly set, said:

"We do not approve of Mr Tran Van Lam's point. There will be only one official document for this conference; it's the Act. Mr Lam's statement is discordent to both the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement."

Lam's motion was also turned down by DRVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh and the Foreign Ministers of Soviet Union, China, Poland and Hungary.

Now, the official text of the Act had been adopted, and copies of it, bound in milk-coloured leather covers, were lying in front of the foreign ministers. They were printed in offset, on glossy paper, and in five languages — Vietnamese, Russian, Chinese, French and English. The Act includes almost all the points in the draft prepared by the DRVN Delegation with the concurrence of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government. After the initialing in the afternoon of the previous day, we were besieged by foreign journalists who came in large numbers to congratulate us. "That's a great victory for you!" they enthused. "The DRVN and the PRG have played a great role at the conference."

The Act marks a great victory of the Vietnamese people, and a failure of the dirty schemes of certain persons at the conference. The name of the RSVN PRG is inscribed in the Act as a full-fledged government participating in this important international conference, which is an acknowledgement of the fact that there are two administrations in South Viet Nam. The PRG's role and prestige, through the Conference and its Act, have increased greatly. Last night, Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh gave a grand banquet in honour of the ministers and vice-ministers for foreign affairs of 12 countries and UN Secretary General Kurt Vandheim.

The Act has also foiled the scheme to set up a permanent organ for the supervision of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, to infringe upon the sovereignty and independence of Laos and Cambodia, and to relieve the United States of its responsibility in economic aid to Viet Nam, in violation of the Vietnamese people's sovereignty.

The Act acknowledges, voices its approval of, and supports the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. It recognizes the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, acknowledges the commitments of the parties to the Agreement to respect it, and calls on all countries to do the same. It gives the Paris Agreement an international cachet by recognizing it as "a major contribution to peace, self-determination, national independence, and the improvement of relations among countries." The international juridical value and validity of the Agreement have thus been greatly enhanced.

The Polish Foreign Minister, at the last minutes of the Conference, pointed out the historic significance of the Act. He said: "In front of you are copies of the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam, done in five languages, to be signed. I propose that the head delegates sign them now."

The 12 foreign ministers started signing their names, each repeating the process 60 times, officially and solemnly recognizing the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the great successes the latter had recorded in several decades of hard and valiant struggle.

It is only too right to say that it was the people and combatants in both South and North Viet Nam who were winning, over that circular table, the great victory solemnly recognized by the adversary and the world.

After the champagne party thrown by the French Government right in the Conference Centre to celebrate the happy event, Foreign Ministers Nguyen Duy Trinh and Nguyen Thi Binh smilingly stepped out into the sunny street waving jubilantly to the waiting newsmen and, through TV cameras, to the whole world.

**H. H.**

*On the occasion of the International Woman's Day*

# We go up the line

ON learning that our troupe was to go to the battle zone, everyone of us was overwhelmed with excitement. We were dying to know who were among the "happy few" because only seventeen were to be selected.

The wait in the rear seemed interminable and intolerably dull even though a lot of rehearsing claimed our time at the evacuation place.

At last the long-awaited day came. At noon one day we boarded two army trucks and headed south on Highway 1 under torrential rains. We sat huddled on the cases of costumes and properties while the rain beat a steady staccato on the canvas cover. But our laughter drowned the rain spatter. Hanoi slowly receded behind the shroud of rain.

Thus began our visit to the front where we could see with our own eyes what life on the Truong Son range and amidst the armymen was like.

We gave our first performance at Station X. where sick and wounded soldiers from farther south were taking a few days of rest before going to a medical station or sana. The sight of dust-covered army trucks with dried camouflage twigs parked beside the ambulance car and nurses rushing out to greet their charges called back to my mind a painting by a Western artist I had seen long ago depicting the same scene but with very drab colours. Everyone in the painting wore a stern look as if they were trying to suppress their physical pain. But those were only fleeting recollections my childhood which were soon replaced by completely different sentiments when we gave our first performance.

The weather was extremely inclement. A persistent drizzle fell all day and night, preventing us from giving our shows in the open air. We were compelled to split up into small groups and go to each hospital ward and each bed to sing for the sick armymen. One of the armymen could not contain his emotion when he heard us singing. His trembling hands clasped ours firmly and two big beads of tear rolled down his cheeks. We were later told that he was one of the "toughest" who had not uttered a single moan even when his wounds gave him searing pains. We sang tirelessly from morning till noon, and sang all songs they requested. It was quite gratifying to see their faces brighten up as we sang. This would help them bear the terrible pain and recover more quickly, we told ourselves with a discreet feeling of pride.

We went further southward, without stopping over too long at any place. Each halt made us better realize the capacity of endurance of our armymen. Sometimes we had to sleep in the jungle. The drivers gave their cabins to those of us who had shown some sign of fatigue. The rest shifted for themselves, the men on their hammocks, and the women on cases on the truck floor. Some other girls and I who were sensitive to the cold, made our beds under the trucks. The roving life had made us shiftier and shiftier. In fact, we managed to find a place to sleep in

The nights in the jungle of the green Truong Son dipped us in a sea of longing. The thick canopy of trees looked darker and higher in the mysterious silence of night. From time to time there came the rumble of gun fire from a distance which was made more distinct by the stillness of night. We lay down to sleep in the rustle of the wind passing through the foliage. Looking at the rocking hammocks of my companions I saw the moon-light dancing around them, illuminating their gentle sleeping faces. We wanted so badly some winks of sleep in order to be fresh for our journey on the following day, but sleep did not come.

The merriest moments were undoubtedly the hot meals we shared with the truck drivers. They had brought along spades to dig anti-air raid stoves. And there was plenty of dry firewood in the forest. So it took only a few minutes to cook the rice which we ate with tinned meat. The drivers were experts in cooking meals this way. Fearing that the prolonged diet consisting only of wild vegetables would affect our health, they found some way to catch fish for us. They cared for us as if we were their own sisters and brothers. Some openly expressed their concern when seeing our paleness after our long tour. Aware of this, we tried our best to reassure them by joking and laughing all the time. When night came we would sing for them. This was not a performance in its real sense but rather a community song to which the drivers also contributed their songs. Sometimes when the distance from one station to another was not very long, we went on foot. With knapsacks on our backs and sticks in our hands, we looked exactly like an army unit.

The road through the Truong Son range is full of steep slopes, deep ravines and high peaks. Only when you come here can you realize the full purport of the song "The *Truong Son* Stick" which is one of our favourite pieces. We forded streams in water so limpid that we could see the gravel in their beds. And needless to say, there was plenty of leeches that stubbornly stuck to our legs. There was also the reddish mud that stuck so firmly to our rubber sandals. On rainy days it was a very trying job for our young jungle-trekkers and not a few tumbled again and again on the slippery slopes. This would draw taunting remarks from the armymen that made us blush with shame. Under the cover of the thick canopy of the forest we could perform in day time, while the planes were droning very far away.

Everyone who comes to the Truong Son cannot help feeling happy when he hears the cries of monkeys in the morning. The bamboo forest stretch endlessly and underneath streams continue their eternal babble. Perched on the hill slopes are the makeshift barracks of the armymen. We noticed many groves of grapefruit and lemon trees in front of those thatched huts. We were told that they had spread from the settlements of the Van Kieu minority people ever since Saigon soldiers came and burnt down their villages and forced them into concentration camps. Then elephant grass would invade the houses' foundations. The armymen cleared it and built new dwellings on them. One day, we set out on foot under a scorching sun. We quickened our steps for everyone was impatient to arrive at destination to prepare for the performance in the evening. A truck came from the opposite direction. There were seven armymen on it. No doubt, they could easily recognize us as members of a song and dance troupe from the bulky equipment we had with us: drums, cymbals, curtains... The car stopped and its passengers jumped down and asked if we could oblige with a song. Naturally we complied with a good grace. How proud and moved we felt on learning that they had been grappling successfully with the enemy for two long weeks. This could be seen on their sun-tanned faces. We sang with all our hearts and our audience broke into merry laughter. Some beat time out of habit.

One night, we were riding trucks. It was pitch dark and our vehicles had to rely on the tiny lights placed under their chassis and which had to be switched off whenever we climbed a slope. We heard the horn of another truck coming from the opposite direction. When the two vehicles crossed we heard a young female voice calling out:

"Are you song and dance troupe?"

"We are! we are!" We replied with excitement, "and you, who are you?"

The voice again rang out, this time to our driver:

"Would you please move closer to the roadside and let me pass, comrade?"

In the dim light of the cabin we could see a young girl of about twenty years of age sitting firmly at the driving wheel. We could also detect a plastic bag which she had placed on her seat to be at the level of the driving wheel. We all craned our necks out to have a closer look at her and were struck by admiration for this courageous little girl.

All along our tour on the Truong Son, wherever we went, we were accorded the same warm welcome. We were struck by the abundance of flowers in the midst of a primevial forest, including gladioli.

Before we went, I had anticipated a lot of bombs, bullets and hardships. But I could not imagine what the armymen's life here was like. Indeed, there had been a great excitement among all of us when learning of our assignment but not until we were in their midst could we really understand the greatness of our fighters. Their fight and experience have taught me and my companions a lot. The Truong Son forests are not so dark and so austere as we often thought them to be. They are bustling with life, with the whirr of engines and the hum of human voices, songs, and laughter. The grandeur of the jungles and the men and women here seemed to lend depth and weight to our singing. We sang and acted for the wounded armymen and the young volunteers in the road-mending teams, for the drivers, sappers and infantry. Our audiences belonged to a wide social spectrum.

But there is no doubt that our greatest joy still is to hear the news of the gains of the armymen whom we had the opportunity to meet and entertain. We feel not without justification that we have done our share in these feats, however humble it might be. And this is the highest reward we've ever earned.

**NGUYEN THI HONG NGAT**
*entertainer*

# Hue: the first spring days of peace

WITH the state of emergency decreed for twenty-four hours from the night of January 27, tanks, armoured personnel carriers and police cars armed with automatic weapons patrolled the streets of Hue. Communiqués and appeals worded in a threatening tone were broadcast through megaphones. Despite such a display of strength, the Saigon regime could not impose the state of emergency on the hearts of the townsfolk. On that historic night they widely opened their doors to the return of spring, a spring of peace.

On the 29th, the city was all in an unusual bustle. In differing ways people displayed their exultation. On both sides of the Perfume River, at the bus station, at the market place and elsewhere, they greeted one another with these words: "Peace is restored, the Americans will have to go." Some policemen on duty ostensibly expressed sympathy with the crowd's feelings as, smilingly, they perfunctorily checked papers of passers-by. At the same time, APCs stationed at crossroads, pointed their guns sky-ward, and 105 mm pieces thundered around the city.

"Nguyen Van Thieu is violating the agreement and wrecking peace. He speaks of implementing the accord and actually is breaking it," Mr X, a middle-school teacher, told me in his house. He regretted that the Tet holiday made it impossible for him to tell his joy at the peace news to his pupils. "My joy is so great", he said, "that I want to share it with everyone. For the first time in almost ten years I had been teaching, I was in a position to tell my pupils what I wanted to." He hurriedly arranged an apricot spray in a vase and took out of his pocket a text of the peace agreement he had copied as it was dictated by Hanoi Radio. "When we have independence and sovereignty," Mr X. added, "we have everything. Our people are like branches of the same tree, children of the same mother, of the same blood, with the same history, a people that nothing can possibly divide. He who refuses to face this historical fact and opposes reconciliation and concord, is against the Vietnamese nation, and is no longer a Vietnamese."

T., a student of the local Teachers' Training College, jubilantly commented: "From now on, students will no longer be haunted by the spectre of military training and jails." He pointed out that the Paris Agreement would bring together students in a broad-based bloc, and that those of Hue, true to their traditions, would use it as a weapon against all reactionary forces and enemies of peace and national concord.

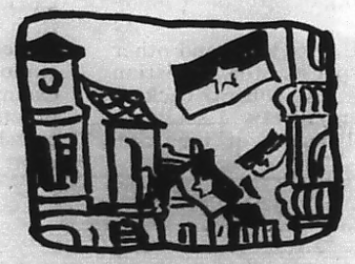
Happiest of all were the women vendors at the Dong Ba Market Hall. Their happiness was not only that of mothers, wives or aunts reunited with their children, husbands or nephews or nieces, but also that of an entire nation regaining peace. Late in last December, when it was announced that the Americans were blitzing Hanoi, a great many of them wept and silently staged a market strike. They cheered up on learning that Hanoi had foiled the move. Today they were beside themselves with joy.

During the few days immediately after the cease-fire had come into effect, Hue was crowded with soldiers in different badges and dirty clothes. Most of them were deserters and tried to dodge police patrols.

I interviewed an officer of Regiment 54. He took off his torn badge—a tiger's head—and said that his battalion had been ordered to raid a village bordering on Highway 1 on Sunday morning, after the cease-fire. "No one in my battalion wanted to risk his life at such a moment", he continued. "But none of us could do otherwise since tanks were on our heels, and in the end there were dead and wounded and the majority went over the hill. I did the same." During our whole talk, Saigon artillery kept on booming in the city's suburbs.

Many Hue policemen took the same course of action. Though cautious outwardly, they had begun earnestly thinking over their lot. A guard of Nam Giao Bridge asked me in a whisper to show him my papers. "I hope you'll understand, I have to do my duty", he said. "I must soon find another job to support my family. It is a damned depressing job, this one which inconveniences everyone."

A pedicab driver who had stopped at the same time as I burst out laughing: "We all should do our bit in enforcing the implementation of the peace accord. Even a hundred Thieu won't be able to thwart the will of the whole nation. Now that peace and concord have been restored, you'd better go home and seek another job."



# Here and there

## A "popular demonstration"

Before the signing of the Paris Agreement, there was an occurrence worth recalling.

On December 5, 1972, foreign correspondents in Saigon were invited to a "popular anti-communist demonstration."

Since the small hours of the day, the population of some villages in the Dinh Tuong province had been urged onto Highway 4, kept in order by civilian guards in black uniforms and watched by armoured cars stationed some hundred yards off the road and tree-top-hopping choppers. Very few men and young people were to be seen in the crowd consisting mostly of men and children squatting along the road, three-stripe flags and slogan-inscribed placards lying pell-mell in their "tired" arms. This apathetic mob only chanted slogans and waved their flags when actively prodded by their headmen and the guards. The children, released from school, had a wonderful time despite their teachers' scolding.

A betel-chewing old lady told *AFP* correspondent Laurent Chevalier that they had been summoned to the road and distributed flags and posters. Only then did they know that they had to stage an anti-communist demonstration. A wasted morning with no money to be earned.

All that was meant to prove that Thieu was still "in control" and "supported" by the people.

## "Spontaneous popular violence"

There was also the Ban Me Thuot incident.

From Pleiku where they arrived on February 8, 1973, the military representatives of the DRVN to the Ban Me Thuot Sector III Four-Party Joint Commission were lifted, under the terms of the cease-fire Protocols, to their assigned site by US helicopters. The first of these landed on a garrison's football ground. A US officer and the Saigon CO of the local troops escorted their guests to the "reviewing stand" where a table and three wooden seats, all occupied by military police. While they waited for "formalities" to be fulfilled, the second chopper whirred in. While the new-comers were still at a loss where to proceed to, Saigon policemen opened wide the iron gate of the ground for a gang of men to rush in. These split into two groups and one running to the craft and the other to the reviewing stand, they unfurled banners and shouted abuses while waving three-stripe flags. They darted after the military representatives making for the "reviewing stand" and pounced on them with sticks, stones and brass knuckles. Their breath smelled of alcohol. All the eight DRVN officers were assaulted and wounded, some of them knocked down on the ground, unconscious and covered with blood.

The US and Saigon officers had vanished as by a conjurer's trick from the "reviewing stand" where they only returned after the coup. When they had to sign the proces-verbal, they declared: "It was a regrettable incident. But it was a spontaneous action of the masses!"

O masses! What offences have not been committed in your name in South Viet Nam in the US - Saigon controlled areas!

## Escalation in violence

Public opinion has been sickened by such outbursts of hooliganism which have only thrown a more lurid light on their perpetrators. After the Ban Me Thuot affairs, correspondents of Western press agencies, like *AFP*, *ABC*, *Reuter* showed their sympathy with us by informing us that they had alerted the world public over the crude violations of the Paris Agreement by the Saigon administration.

In point of fact, right on the first days of the coming into force of the cease-fire and even during Tet, serious, systematic, continuous and widespread breaches of the accord had been committed. Raids by police and soldiers were mounted against those who were for peace, and national reconciliation and concord; massacres of old-agers and women and inroads into areas under the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam were undertaken by companies, battalions and regiments supported by armour, artillery and aviation; indiscriminate bombings and shellings were staged on liberated villages... In less than one month, from January 28 to February 24, 1973, in the 7 sectors of South Viet Nam, the Thieu men, aided and abetted by the US, committed 23,560 violations of the cease-fire.

The Ban Me Thuot assault aimed at crippling the operation of the machinery seeing to the implementation of the accord has been followed up by other dastardly brutalities. These have not been even camouflaged as "spontaneous popular actions." They simply were shameless ambushes.

In this escalation in violence which seems to be much to the liking of the US "military advisors," turned "civilian," lurks the murky hand of the turbaned and brocade-clad "President" whose recent appearance on the TV was reminiscent of another ill-fated tyrant.

HUONG NAM

# *Grand meeting in* SAM NEUA

A grand meeting was held in Sam Neua on February 27 to welcome Phoumi Vongvichit, Phoun Sipaseuth, and other members of the Lao Patriotic Forces' delegation back from Vientiane where it had signed the "Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos", according to *KPL*.

Upon their arrival, Phoumi Vongvichit, plenipotentiary envoy of Prince Souphanouvong of the Vientiane talks and the other members of the Patriotic Forces' delegation were warmly welcomed by Prince Souphanouvong, leading members to the LPF and the Alliance Committee of the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces, and Vo Van Thanh, head of the Economic and Cultural Representation of the DRVN in the liberated zone of Laos.

Addressing the meeting, Prince Souphanouvong, on behalf of the LPF Central Committee, warmly welcomed the Patriotic Forces' delegation, for its brilliant success.

He pointed out that the signing of the Agreement is a very great and brilliant victory of the people of all nationalities of Laos, who have carried out a stubborn struggle for independence and freedom over the past decade.

Prince Souphanouvong called on the entire army and people to bring into full play this historic victory and to fulfil all tasks assigned them so as to maintain genuine peace and national concord in Laos.

Speaking next, Phoumi Vongvichit, on behalf of the delegation, stressed that the people of all nationalities of Laos have achieved so great a victory thanks to the correct and clearsighted leadership of the LPF Central Committee, the close alliance between the Lao Patriotic Front and the Patriotic Neutralist Forces, the close unity of the people, the militant solidarity between the Lao people and the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples in the spirit of fraternal friendship and the support and assistance of the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world.

He expressed the Patriotic Forces' good faith and determination to strictly implement the Agreement and demanded the Vientiane side to respect and seriously implement it so as to bring a happy and plenty life to the Lao people.

*Workers in a Lao liberated area boosting production to greet the Peace Accord*

# *In brief*

**India: All-India Trade Union Congress proposed official recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.**

The 29th convention of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) which met in New Delhi recently has passed a resolution urging the United States and the Saigon administration to strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, demanding guarantees of democratic liberties for the South Vietnamese people and immediate release of political prisoners. It has also proposed that the Indian government recognize the RSVN PRG and decided to present the DRVN with an anti-TB hospital.

**Mexico: "Viet Nam heroism and dauntlessness has saved the whole mankind."**

Under the bold-type bearing: "Many thanks," the Mexican weekly *For Que* ran on February 8 an article extolling the signing of the Paris Agreement as a great victory of Viet Nam. "This is a marvellous example for all oppressed peoples now struggling for economic and political freedom...", said the paper. "It has been and still is a source of encouragement to all the exploited peoples living under the colonialist yoke. The heroism and dauntlessness of Viet Nam have saved the whole mankind."

**Palestine Organisation representative in Iraq donates 1,000 dinars to South Viet Nam reconstruction fund.**

Recently, the representative of the Palestine Organisation in Iraq called at the RSVN Embassy to congratulate the South Vietnamese people's victory on the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. On the same occasion, he contributed 1,000 dinars to South Viet Nam reconstruction fund.

**Cuba and DPR of Yemen pledge full support for RSVN PRG.**

During the Yemeni Foreign Minister's good will visit to Cuba, a press communiqué was made public on February 16 in Havana, strongly condemning the Saigon administration's violations of the Paris Accord on Viet Nam and the US scheme to shirk its implementation. It also voiced Cuba's and the DPRY's full support for the RSVN PRG as the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese.

**Denmark: 20,000 kroners collected for South Vietnamese.**

Between Feb. 13 and 18, several meetings, press conferences and talks on Viet Nam were held in Viborg, Herning Esberg, Odense... to keep the public abreast with situation in Viet Nam, following the signing of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace, and call for more popular political and material support for the Vietnamese. In the period under review, people in the said cities and the Denmark Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam collected 20,000 kroners for the South Vietnamese.

**GDR: Gift-laden cargoship "Erfurt" leaves Rostov for Viet Nam.**

Thousands of tons of machines, technical and medical appliances, medicines, plasma, textiles, teaching aids, lorries, telecommunication equipment, sewing machines and many other goods are to be presented by the GDR people and Government to the Vietnamese.

The gifts are aboard the 13,000-ton Cargo "Erfurt" now on her way from Rostov to Haiphong.

**India first 100,000 rupees for a hospital in Viet Nam.**

After attending the 29th All-India TU Congress, the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of TU delegation visited many factories and TU organisations, and took part in meetings in its honour in several industrial centres and high schools in Calcutta and its outskirts. Everywhere they went, they were given a hearty welcome by Indian people and workers. At the AITUC Executive Committee in West Bengale State, the Delegation received a case of plasma and a cheque of 100,000 rupees collected in the first drive for the building of a hospital in Viet Nam.

**Latin American: "Committees for Viet Nam national reconstruction" set up.**

The campaign to set up "Committees for Viet Nam national reconstruction" has been drawing in numerous mass and political organizations in many Latin American countries.

In Peru, following the TU, students and other progressive organisations' response, the Christian Democratic Party also issued a statement backing the campaign. The Peru Journalists' Association was entrusted with the establishment of the local body.

In Uruguary, responding to the Socialist Party's appeal, several progressive organizations such as the Left-wing Liberation Front, the Communist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the "White" people's and progressive movement (a break-away faction from the "White" Party) took part in a gathering to set up a "Committee to Help Viet Nam in peace time."

In Argentina, the formation of such a committee has been under heated discussions among prominent personalities of the intelligentsia, artistic, workers' and political circles...

**US: It's too early for American peace militants to stop their action.**

A meeting was held in New York on Feb. 18 by members of the Anti-Viet Nam war movement in the US, trade-unionists and representatives of Black Americans' Organisations. It highlighted the necessity to continue pressure on the US government to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the Lao and Cambodian issues and on the Saigon administration to strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

In his speech on this occasion, F. Branman denounced the Saigon administration's increasing terrorist and repressive moves against political detainees, and tortures and illtreatment of South Vietnamese patriots. In these conditions, he stressed, it's too early for the American peace militants to wind up their struggle.

**West Berlin: Several money collections for Viet Nam.**

A rally in solidarity with, and support for Viet Nam was convened at the technical College on Feb. 15 by members of the West Berlin Unified Socialist Party. 920 marks were collected on the spot and handed to Tran Huu Nghia, the RSVN PRG representative, as a present to the South Vietnamese. Many money collections for Viet Nam have also been organized in other parts of West Berlin over the last days.

**South Africa: The Vietnamese people's courage will remain for ever a source of inspiration for oppressed peoples.**

In a congratulatory letter to the South Vietnamese youth and students, the South African Youth and Students' Organisation wrote: "Your heroic and courageous spirit as well as your adherence to Uncle Ho's teaching that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" will for ever be a source of inspiration for all the oppressed and exploited peoples the world over. Through your example, you have further substantiated with practical deeds the theory that no force on earth can bar the advance of a people conscious of their right and strength."

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION